

WEEKLY RECORD.

Devoted to the Mining, Lumbering, Milling,

and General Interests of Lake of the Woods.

VOL. I, NO. 5.

RAT PORTAGE, ONT., AUG. 15, 1891.

FIVE CENTS.

"The Weekly Record"
IS PUBLISHED
EVERY SATURDAY;

At the office, one door south of the Russell
House, Main street, Rat Portage, Ont.
Subscription, 25¢ per annum in advance.

JAMES WEIDMAN, Proprietor.

A TOWN PARK.

Would it not be a good move now for Rat Portage to make an effort to secure a good public park, seeing that the Ontario Government seem to be in a position to deal with all the lands in the vicinity since the settlement arrived at between them and the Keewatin Lumber Co.? Thanks to his generosity and public spiritedness, the late Mr. M. L. Indout, in the survey of his estate north of the M. R. Co.'s Reserve, laid out a park, which was ultimately confirmed by the Government, and is now the property of the municipality. A portion of this has been reserved for a burial place, and more of it will be required in that connection. In fact Union Park at time will not be more than sufficient for a respectable cemetery. It is therefore, of the greatest importance that steps should be taken at the earliest possible date to secure sufficient land suitable for a public park. All that portion of Tunnel Island south of the railway has been suggested, and it would indeed be an excellent location. The Record is of the opinion, however, that a portion of Coney Island would be preferable. Without prejudice to any person having claims thereto (who we believe should be fully compensated), we suggest that the north and south sandy beaching on the island should be included in a large park, and ceded to the municipality for public purposes. Would it not be well to make known this matter? The Commissioner of Crown Lands and another member of the Government are at present in the district, and could easily be interviewed by delegations from the Municipal Council and Board of Trade, and some decision arrived at before the lands available for such a purpose are all disposed of. If this matter is not now attended to the time may come day here to my desire for what the present time to be secured at comparatively little expense. We trust the Council and the Board of Trade will take this matter up promptly and secure an interview with Hon. A. S. Hardy, on his return from Rainy River.

About three years ago a petition was signed by nearly everybody in town praying that the Government grant Mr. Wm. McCarthy Coney Island. At that time Mr. McCarthy generously made a proposition to the municipal council offering a portion of it for a town park. The petition is still with the Government. Mr. McCarthy's claim holds good, and his offer also stands the same. Under these circumstances it is the duty of the town to embrace the present opportunity and urge a speedy disposal of Coney Island. Here is a work for the Council and the Board of Trade the accomplishment of which will be a lasting benefit to the whole community.

Our Cross Lake correspondent was in error last week in reference to the close season in Manitoba for water fowl. The same law of Manitoba was changed at the last session of the provincial legislature and the close season extended from the fifteenth of August to the first of September, which is no doubt to the advantage of the ducks at Cross Lake, and really better less true.

THE MATHER SETTLEMENT.
It is not without hesitation that we approach this question; lest our motives will not be appreciated, and what we may say may be received as being written in a captious party spirit! We deem it necessary, however, in the general interests of this district that public sentiment shall be voiced in reference to the reported terms of settlement of the lease of the islands in the Lake of the Woods to the Keewatin Lumber Co. The terms of the lease in the first place were indefensible from a public point of view, and have been the cause of much discussion. Doubtless some of the conditions which have been interpreted to the injury of individual rights were secured from the then Government without their being properly understood. There has been much condemnation of the Keewatin Lumber Co. for their persistent exercise of the full rights given them by the lease. It was simply a case of barking up the wrong tree. They had obtained the lease it must be assumed without fraud, for such has never been charged against them, and as a matter of business they had the right of making the best bargain they could. The lease belonged to the Government of the day for giving a timber lease with almost exclusive proprietary rights. It is true there has been much heartburning on account of the Co. encroaching their full rights to the very letter, but it is nothing more than human nature to do as they did. The leading spirits of the company were far seeing enough to know that the more firmly they held to the conditions of their lease, the better case they could make in any negotiations for cancelling it. That they have made an exceedingly strong case appears evident from what are said to be the terms they have secured from the Ontario Government. Besides other compensation the Keewatin Lumber Co. appear to have secured the proprietary right in the whole of Tunnel Island in consideration of spending \$150,000 in developing its water power in three years, and the ownership of one acre of land to every house they have erected on the islands in the vicinity of Keewatin and on Coney Island, including the whole of Sandy beach, our usual bathing ground. Nothing has been heard of compensating those who have had claims to portions of Tunnel Island and Coney Island, and the inference is that they will be ignored. It is said the Co. had the prior claim to Tunnel Island, as it was first selected by them for their mill site. But that fact could give them no equitable or other right, as they went elsewhere and located, and the land was generally supposed to belong to the Government.

Mr. Clifford Sifton, who was at

the time Attorney-General of Manitoba some months ago, Mr. Sifton personally is a very estimable gentleman and an Orator, his greatest failing being extreme overstatement, while his opponents can compare with him in quaintness of head and heart. The Conservative opposition had nominated Mr. C. O. Ollie of the Brandon Mail, and although they had worked hard, found him too heavy a weight to carry. Those who nominate candidates at the character and culture of Ollie deserve to be blamed.

who think that if the water power of Tunnel Island be properly developed it would be the best thing that could happen in the interest of the community. Certainly there is no doubt that the full utilization of that water power, which it is estimated could be developed up to fifty thousand horse power, would be the means of drawing industries here which would support a large population. That such a state of things is desirable is beyond question. As far as Tunnel Island is concerned, if the Government have given it to the Keewatin Lumber Co. and the conditions imposed are carried out and all proper claims respected and satisfied, we say without hesitation that it is a grand thing for the two towns. With reference to the other concessions, in respect to the islands near there, they are certainly objectionable. No company, any more than an individual, should be recognized as having the right to squat in twenty-five or more different places simultaneously in any way depriving the rights of any, and we will not say the rest in any, but not say against the Keewatin Lumber Co., but we do think the Government should have exercised greater care than they appear to have done in respect to Coney Island. It is said Sundy beach has been given to the Co. We hope this is not true, and that it still remains Government property and that it may be secured by the municipality as a park after fully compensating any claims there may be against it. In this article we have endeavored to deal dispassionately with the subject in reference to what are said to be the conditions of the settlement which affect us locally. Up to the present time the full conditions have not been made public in any unauthorized manner, and it remains to be seen whether the Government have really made a just and equitable bargain as a whole.

A copy of the prize list and program of attractions of the Winnipeg industrial exhibition has been received at THE RECORD office. The time fixed is Sept. 29th to Oct. 2d and the list shows \$15,500 in prizes. No doubt the exhibition this year will be the most extensive and best show of the products of Western Canada ever held, as the general farm products this season promise of greater quantity and better quality than any previous year.

On Saturday last, by a majority of 173, North Brandon reelected Mr. Clifford Sifton, who was at the time Attorney-General of Manitoba some months ago. Mr. Sifton personally is a very estimable gentleman and an Orator, his greatest failing being extreme overstatement, while his opponents can compare with him in quaintness of head and heart. The Conservative opposition had nominated Mr. C. O. Ollie of the Brandon Mail, and although they had worked hard, found him too heavy a weight to carry. Those who nominate candidates at the character and culture of Ollie deserve to be blamed.

SIR HECTOR LANGEVIN RE-SIGNS.

The news comes from Ottawa that Sir Hector Langevin has placed his resignation as a member of the Government in the hands of the Minister of Abbott. The Ottawa Citizen states that Langevin, having nothing to do with Mr. Tarte's charge in La Canadienne, he therefore took the trouble to write a letter to that effect. This letter was produced, and Sir Hector read it to the effect that Valois stated that Tarte did not understand him (Valois) but that he (Valois) said that he had nothing to say against Sir Hector, nor that he (Valois) wished to run in Montmorency as the Opposition candidate. Sir Hector says that he never promised him a senatorship nor told him that Sir A. P. G. Cartier's promise for that appointment. He says that he did not know anything of the names of members to the Langevin fund, and he had never spoken to him about any of the works. He recollects that when the bridge across the St. Lawrence was under construction he was a member of the contractors and that his place was likely to be a vacant. He might therefore have asked Perreault to look out for another engineer, but he does not know Williams for that reason.

He had no knowledge of the name of the engineer who was ever recommended O. P. Murphy to the British government as a contractor for the Halifax fortifications. He admitted that Thomas McGreevy discounted his notes and paid his interest regularly since 1874. He said he had no interest in La Morde and gained nothing from that place. He was not in the public service, and he was not in the House of Commons. He had no knowledge of the name of the engineer who was ever recommended O. P. Murphy to the British government as a contractor for the Halifax fortifications. He admitted that Thomas McGreevy discounted his notes and paid his interest regularly since 1874. He said he had no interest in La Morde and gained nothing from that place. He was not in the public service, and he was not in the House of Commons.

The Indians who were sent to the Rainy river say they would like to get a chance to talk to the Minister of Marine or Public Works of the Dominion Government, up the Rainy river. They are confident if they could get them as far as the Ontario minister have gone this week that they would soon be practically convinced of the necessity of improving the navigation at Manitou Rapids and the Long Sault, and would delay that work no longer.

As Others See Us.

We have just received the initial copy of the Western Herald, a sheet at Rat Portage by Mr. James Weidman, the original proprietor of the Progress. The Western Herald is sly, clever, and in every respect a credit to the proprietor, and we hope it will receive as liberal a support from the business men of the district as will repay Mr. Weidman for the energy and expense necessary in publishing a paper entirely devoted to the varied interests of the trio towns—Rat Portage, Keewatin, and Norman. Mr. Weidman, in his announcement to the public, expresses no uncertainty about his preference for the general policy of the Conservative party, but with characteristic independence promises not to be bound by blind partisanship. We wish the Progress unlimited prosperity. —*Qu'Appelle, N.W.T. Progress.*

Mr. J. Weidman, formerly editor and proprietor of the Qu'Appelle Progress, has landed out with a new weekly paper at Rat Portage called the Record. Mr. Weidman is a live and experienced newspaper man, and does not enter upon an experiment at Rat Portage for he was the author of the first periodical published in this place—*International Record*, Hamilton, Ont.

The Weekly Echo, a journal devoted to the interests of Rat Portage, Keewatin and Norman, is now monthly. It is neatly printed and printed of local and district news. —*Manitou Lake, N.W.T. Echo.*

The Weekly Record, published by James Weidman, Rat Portage, Agent of the Qu'Appelle, is to lead. The first number is well printed and all the news is the news with local

